

Sauce #9/B EMARK OFFICE 9-20-02

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

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Serial No.

09/777,343

Examiner D. Handy

September 3, 2002

Filed

February 5, 2001

Group Art Unit 1743

For

INTEGRATED SAMPLE-PROCESSING SYSTEM

Box AMENDMENT FEE Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

## **AMENDMENT**

In response to the Office action dated April 2, 2002, applicants hereby request that the above-identified patent application be amended as follows:

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 10, 30, and 35 as follows:

- 1. A system for delivering fluid to a sample holder comprising
- a fluid source,
- a positive displacement pump connected to the fluid source,
- a dispenser assembly having an orifice, and
- a conduit path extending from the pump to the orifice of the dispenser assembly,

wherein the system is configured to provide non-contact deposition of fluid aliquots having a volume of less than about 5 microliters per aliquot without closing or constricting the conduit path between the deposition of successive fluid aliquots.

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